

# Identifying Elder Abuse

This playbook details the procedure for recognizing signs of elder abuse, including identification of various types and appropriate responses when abuse is suspected.

## Step 1: **Awareness**

Increase your knowledge about elder abuse, including physical, emotional, sexual, financial abuse, and neglect. Learn the common signs associated with each type.

## Step 2: **Observation**

Pay close attention to the elder's physical condition, emotional state, and overall behavior. Be vigilant for any sudden changes or patterns that match known signs of abuse.

## Step 3: **Communication**

Talk to the elder in a safe and private setting. Gently ask about their well-being and listen carefully to their concerns or reluctance to speak about certain topics.

## Step 4: **Documentation**

Keep a detailed record of any signs or disclosures of abuse. Document dates, times, descriptions, and any other relevant information that can substantiate concerns.

## Step 5: **Reporting**

Report the suspected abuse to the appropriate authorities. Contact local adult protective services, law enforcement, or ombudsman programs for direction and assistance.

## Step 6: **Support**

Offer support to the elder, ensuring they feel safe and understood. Connect them with community resources, counseling, and medical professionals as needed.

# **General Notes**

## **Confidentiality**

Respect the privacy of the elder and handle the situation with utmost confidentiality, following all relevant laws and regulations.

## **Follow-up**

After reporting, keep in touch with the authorities to stay informed about the case, and continue to offer the elder emotional and social support.